



*A mother's heartfelt  
message and memories  
of her son – Jacob Shafer.  
Story on page 4.*



*Don't forget to say...  
I Love You!*

*Make yours a license to heal.  
Story on back cover.*



*2004 Annual Report of the Organ Donation Advisory Committee*



## Letter from the Chair of the Organ Donation Advisory Committee

**Dear Fellow Missourians...**

As Chairman of the Missouri Organ Donation Advisory Committee, it is my pleasure to present the 2004 Annual Report. Since 1996, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Revenue have worked with exceptional diligence to develop the Missouri Donor Registry. The Donor Registry has become a valuable tool for the organ and tissue donation community, and has had a positive impact on donation for several years. The lives saved through donation and transplant is a wonderful result of all of these efforts across our great state. Work continues to increase enrollment and to make the registry even more effective in promoting donation and ultimately transplantation. The Organ Donation Advisory Committee, in concert with the Department of Health and Senior Services, continues to bring the best, brightest, and most deeply committed individuals together to pursue the mission of the Donor Program and Donor Registry...to save and improve the lives of Missourians.

As we have in the past, so shall we continue in the future, to develop the Registry and increase donation awareness, with the ultimate goal of saving and improving the lives of our fellow Missourians.

Your support and commitment to this mission are deeply appreciated.



With greatest respect,

Lonnie M. Boyd, RN, BA, MS  
Chair, Missouri Organ Donation Advisory Committee

## Letter from the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services

**Dear Fellow Missourians...**

The Organ Donor Program has reached new heights since its establishment in 1996. On behalf of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, I am pleased to receive the 2004 Annual Report of the Organ Donation Advisory Committee, which highlights the many positive accomplishments that have occurred during this past year. Of greatest importance is the growth of the registry to nearly 2 million participants. More than one-third of the state has joined the registry. This report also contains the heart-felt story by a mother who describes her experience with the registry. Her story clearly illustrates the impact the registry has for Missourians. I commend the work of the Organ Donation Advisory Committee for their efforts to promote the gift of life. Thank you for your continued support of the Organ Donor Program.



Sincerely,

Julia M. Eckstein  
Director, Department of Health and Senior Services

**Cover:** Jacob Shafer at his family's lake, a favorite hang out for him and his friends. The cover picture (left) was taken only weeks before a fatal accident. (Right) Jacob and his mother, Kelly DeLine, on the evening of his Senior Prom.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER  
Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Alternative forms of this publication can be obtained by calling (800) 735-2966.



**The Missouri Organ Donor Registry is voluntary and confidential.**

You do not have to belong to the registry to be an organ donor. Talking with your family is the best way to express your choice to be a donor. Joining the registry will also help by putting your wishes in writing. For more information or to join the registry, please call (888) 497-4564 or visit us online at [www.dhss.mo.gov/OrganDonor](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/OrganDonor)



## Missouri Organ Donor Program Summary

The Organ Donor Program was created by state legislation effective January 1, 1996 (RSMo 194.297 to 194.304). The program is implemented through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and is funded solely by voluntary contributions to the Organ Donor Program Fund. These donations of \$1 are received by the driver's license offices throughout the state at the time an individual makes application for a driver's license or identification card. Additionally, voluntary contributions, in any amount, can be made directly to the Organ Donor Fund through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

A ten-member Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor, assists the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services with the development and implementation of the Organ Donor Program. The Organ Donation Advisory Committee recommends priorities of expenditures from the Organ Donor Fund to meet the program mandates. The current advisory board members are listed below.

### Representing Procurement Agencies in Missouri

Lonnie Boyd, Committee Chair  
Ronald Walkenbach, Committee Vice-Chair and Cornea Recipient  
Jan Finn

### Representing Hospitals in Missouri

Dr. Michael Perry, Kidney Recipient

### Departmental Liaison to the Committee

Lori Darr, Program Manager

### Statutory Mandates for the Organ Donor Program

- Maintain a statewide, confidential registry of potential donors.
- Develop and implement statewide donation awareness programs for education of the general public.
- Implement donation awareness programs within the secondary schools.

### Funding for the Organ Donor Program and Statewide Registry

- The Organ Donor Program is supported exclusively by voluntary contributions at the driver's license offices in the state and through direct contributions.
- Contributions to the Organ Donor Fund are preserved by statute, and cannot be used as general revenue. Likewise, the Organ Donor Program is prohibited from receiving any general revenue funds.
- Current fund balance is approximately \$550,000 with \$168,697 spent in 2004 for statewide education and registry maintenance.

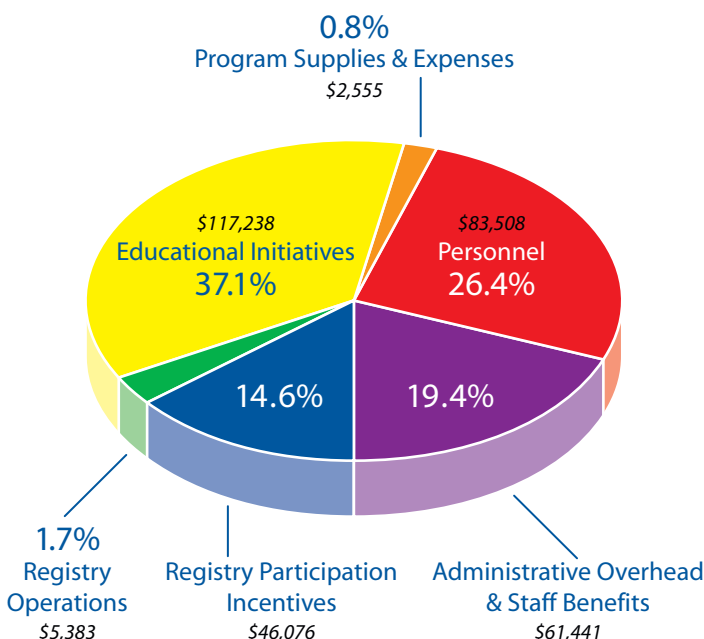
### Representing Donor or Recipient Families

Lori Clark, Donor Mother  
Lucy Reinhart, Donor Mother  
Lisa Atkins, Living Kidney Donor  
Dr. Lisa Britt, Heart Recipient

### Ad Hoc Members

Elisabeth Sanders, Department of Revenue

## 2004 Organ Donor Program Expenditures



The Organ Donor Program is exclusively supported by voluntary contributions. Funds are used to maintain the Organ Donor Registry and support educational initiatives to increase donation awareness. The funds are protected by state statute and cannot be used to fund other programs or activities. Likewise, the Organ Donor Program is prohibited from receiving any state funding. In fiscal year 2004, the Organ Donor Program had authority to spend \$356,880. Expenditures for fiscal year 2004 (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004) totaled \$316,201 and the distribution is illustrated on the left.

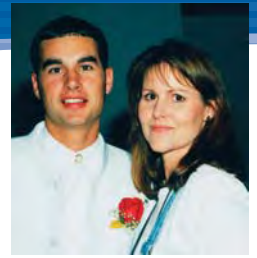
Income for fiscal year 2004 was \$136,628.63; this includes \$1,355.67 from the state employees' charitable campaign and \$268 from direct contributions to the fund through the Department of Health and Senior Services. Most Missourians who support the fund do so while at the driver's license office. An average of 8.4% of license applicants donate \$1 while visiting the license office. The program has experienced a dramatic decrease in funding in the last several years. Primary reasons for the decline are attributed to Missouri changing the license renewal to 6 years and the increase in license transaction fees to an even \$20.





## Don't Forget To Say I Love You!

In memory of Jacob Shafer, written by his mother Kelly.



About two weeks before July 4, 2002 my son, Jacob, called to ask if I would host a BBQ on July 4th. He said he wanted our family to be together that day. I thought about it briefly. I told him my preference would be to wait a few days to see if any of our other family members would offer to host the BBQ. Jacob didn't argue or even try to change my mind, he just said "okay." But I could sense he was disappointed.

Several days passed. For some reason, I began to have thoughts about what if something was to happen over the 4th of July weekend. I remember how sincere and sweet Jacob had been when he asked. I believed God was sending me a message. I just didn't know what message...yet.

I called Jacob and told him I had changed my mind. It was an excellent idea to get our family together, I said, and I'm so glad you suggested it! I could hear in his voice how happy he was about my change of heart.

The morning of July 4th was warm and sunny. I was sitting at the kitchen table and had just finished my breakfast. Jacob arrived early in his white Jeep Wrangler CJ with his black Lab, "Ralphie." They were coming down the driveway with the top of the Jeep removed and both doors were off. As a mother, I felt fear...that seems risky... but I blew it off. I could hear his music playing loud.

Jacob was energetic that morning. He opened the screen door, smiled at me and said, "Mom, will you fix me an omelet with lots of cheddar cheese." Despite my house rules of no short-order meals, I agreed to fix it. I was such a pushover. It felt good to be needed and I was so glad he was home. Yet, I wasn't being consistent with my rules.

Jacob continued to live at our home for a time after he graduated from high school. And at some point, he stopped eating meals when we did. He began to randomly ask me to fix him something, whenever! I did this for a short period. But then I made a rule. If he wanted to eat, he had to eat with us at meal times. Otherwise, he would be responsible for fixing food for himself and cleaning up the mess. Coincidental or not, about that same time, Jacob decided to move to his own apartment. It wasn't long before I started missing those opportunities to cook for him. More importantly, I missed our conversations where he would be open and share with me about what was going on in his life. It seemed easier to do over a plate of food! Time and again he would say, "Mom, cook me up something good to eat." So when he would come home for a visit, I cooked for him. And, I enjoyed doing it!

The afternoon was relaxing. We had loaded up the food, lawn chairs, rafts, sand toys, and volleyball and headed to a small lake on our property. We all feasted on the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs and a variety of other food items. It felt comforting to spend time with family. We played volleyball and horse shoes. The kids even took a dip in the lake.

Evening had arrived and the family began to wind down. One by one they started to pack their belongings in preparation to leave. But several of Jacob's friends stopped by to visit. They were energetic and excited and hung around to talk. It was still very light outside. Too light for shooting off fireworks. Jacob started asking everyone to stay for his fireworks display. I remember wondering why that seemed important to him. Everyone was tired. My parents don't like driving after dark. My one brother and his family had another family event to attend. Even Greg, Jacob's stepfather, said he was tired. I was feeling tired too.

I knew there were still so much food and picnic items to put away. I noticed Jacob's friends were still there. I told Jacob that I decided to go up to the house. Again, he tried to get me to stay to watch his fireworks display. I recall saying "You still have friends here that can watch." Then I turned and walked away. I remember, as I walked away, how I wanted to go back and hug him. But I didn't want to embarrass him in front of his friends, so I didn't do it. I started having those "what if" thoughts again.

Jacob's choices and decisions for his life were not always my choices and decisions for his life. At that moment I wished he was still a little boy so that I could go pick him up, carry him to the house and tuck him safely into bed for the night.

I went on up to the house. I finished cleaning up and putting away items from our picnic. I felt tired and wanted to go to bed. I also felt an urgency to see him again before he left for the night. I was worried that something bad could happen because

lately he seemed to be living his life on the edge. I went back outside and stood in our driveway. I could see the end of the fireworks display from where I stood.

Soon I could see the white Jeep coming up our winding road from the lake. I noticed his friends were following in their vehicles. Jacob parked his Jeep, got out and walked straight toward me. He reached for me, put his arm around me and affectionately said, "Mom, I love you."

Those would be our last words. My life would forever change when a nurse from Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, MO called me. She said, "I'm sorry to have to call you like this, but your son



*This collage of candid photos contains images of Jacob with his mother Kelly at graduation (top left), girlfriend Lena at prom (top right), stepsisters Aimee and Jessica in Hawaii (middle right), and his mother and stepfather Greg at Christmas time (bottom right).*

has been in an accident." "He has been flown to the University of Missouri. He is on life support."

Greg and I arrived at the hospital in Columbia within an hour. We were informed Jacob had been riding as a passenger in the back seat of his Jeep. The driver had lost control and Jacob had been ejected. Immediately, I was more afraid. I was scared to go in and see him. I feared he would look horrible.

In the Neuro Intensive Care Unit, Jacob looked amazingly normal. Except for the ventilator tube, he looked as if he were sleeping. I also noticed his left eyelid was bruised. To me, he looked pretty okay! He was a strong and healthy man. His arms and legs were all tanned from jet skiing at Mark Twain Lake.

My brother-in-law, Jim, arrived at the hospital shortly after us. He is a physician. He also saw Jacob and it wasn't long before he looked at me and said, "You need to think about donating his organs." I remember gasping for air. I said, "I'm trying to think about how I can keep him alive." I was overwhelmed with shock and disbelief. How could this handsome kid with so much potential to do great things with his life be near death? Even though I kept touching Jacob's arm and putting my hand on his forehead, he didn't seem to know that I was there.

I felt numb inside and angry...angry with him because he had made the poor choice of allowing an acquaintance to get behind the wheel of his Jeep. He knew she had been drinking, as had everyone else.

The nurse and health care workers continued to share information with us about his condition. They graciously allowed my family to be in his room, three at a time. It was a huge comfort to have access to Jacob whenever we wanted to be with him.

As the hours went by, Jacob's brain continued to swell. I struggled to understand there was less and less hope that he could survive. I remember how I kept thinking and saying, "I just can't believe this." I thought about how I had consistently prayed for him over the years. I felt certain God would spare his life.

My brother-in-law, Dr. Jim, again asked if I was interested in donating his organs. Dr. Jim had planted a seed in my mind. When the situation felt hopeless, I would think about the idea. But when the situation felt hopeful, I pushed the thought away. Back and forth, back and forth...as the minutes ticked away.

The doctor talked with me about doing a blood flow study of his brain. After it was done, the doctor said there was a "faint" amount of

brain activity. I felt hope in my heart! However, several hours later another blood flow study was done. There was NO brain activity. Jacob was brain dead. My hope was gone.

Unfortunately, Jacob and I had never discussed organ and tissue donation. I knew I wanted to be a donor. I had no idea what Jacob wanted. I wanted to carry out his wishes, but I didn't know what they were. Oh, how I wished we would of had that conversation.

We agreed to meet with the transplant coordinator, Gigi. What a gift of comfort she was. I was feeling so very overwhelmed by this tragic situation. She was so gentle with me. I could sense her compassion. She talked softly and slowly. She kept eye contact with me. I felt my situation mattered to her.

Gigi handed me a slip of paper. She had accessed the donor registry. On record, Jacob had indicated he wanted to be an organ donor when he had renewed his driver's license. Wow! What a comfort to see that piece of paper! That was my confirmation. I said, "Yes."

Donating Jacob's organs has truly been a comfort. Parts of my son are still alive and well in other people! Knowing that his gifts made a difference to so many others has helped me in my grieving.

Jacob's heart made a difference to a gentleman in St. Louis. His kidney and pancreas made a difference to a lady in Garden City. A woman in New York has one cornea. A precious little girl, who had his same blood characteristics, received his other kidney. She lives in Maryland. A grateful man in New Mexico has his liver. Numerous others have benefited from his eyes, bones, skin, and veins.

Jacob's organ recipients have said they believe they have each been given a second chance on life. Each one seems filled with gratitude. Their second chance with life has also helped me with the grief. Jacob's gift has touched all our lives.

The Missouri Organ Donor Registry was so very important to reinforce Jacob's wishes, since our conversation never took place. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the person who asked Jacob the question when he renewed his driver's license. And, for those of you reading my story...I encourage you. If you have not already, have that conversation with your family. Give them the gift of knowing, and don't forget to say, "I love you!"



#### Lives Saved By Jacob's Donations

(Far left) Rick Calvert attending his graduation after his liver transplant; (2nd from left) Nelson Thomas Jr. on his wedding day, one year after his heart transplant, (insert) Nelson with Jacob's mother, Kelly DeLine; (2nd from right) Cara Panuska, now age 9, was a perfect match for Jacob's kidney. She is also pictured with her family; (Far right) Jennifer and her husband after her kidney-pancreas transplant. She is no longer dependent on daily insulin. Not pictured are the many tissue recipients who received corneal, bone, and vein transplants.



## Percent of People Enrolling at Driver's License Offices, Jan. 1, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2004

<b>Adair</b> Kirksville 38%	<b>Cole</b> Jefferson City Branch 40% Jefferson City Mail In 38% Jeff. City Mini Branch 43%	Independence Branch 33% Kansas City Branch 22% Lee's Summit 50% Raytown Branch 34% Sugar Creek 35%	<b>New Madrid</b> New Madrid 27%	<b>St. Charles</b> Harvester 30% O'Fallon 49% St. Charles 42% Wentzville 47%
<b>Andrew</b> Savannah 35%	<b>Cooper</b> Boonville 35%	<b>Jasper</b> Carthage 28% Joplin Branch 36% Sarcxie 38%	<b>Newton</b> Neosho 24%	<b>St. Clair</b> Osceola 31%
<b>Atchison</b> Rock Port 42%	<b>Crawford</b> Cuba 39% Steelville 34%	<b>Jefferson</b> Arnold 39% De Soto 32% High Ridge 49% Twin City 33%	<b>Nodaway</b> Maryville 47%	<b>St. Francois</b> Bonne Terre 36% Farmington 34%
<b>Audrain</b> Mexico 38% Vandalia 38%	<b>Dade</b> Greenfield 40%	<b>Johnson</b> Warrensburg 25%	<b>Oregon</b> Alton 26% Thayer 32%	<b>St. Louis City</b> AAA St. Louis 40% N. Kingshighway Branch 14% S. Kingshighway Branch 26%
<b>Barry</b> Cassville 29% Monett 34%	<b>Dallas</b> Buffalo 27%	<b>Knox</b> Edina 22%	<b>Osage</b> Linn 36%	<b>St. Louis County</b> Affton 26% Bridgeton 41% Chesterfield 54% Clayton 53% Creve Coeur 43% Deer Creek Branch 43% Des Peres 51% Ferguson 13% Florissant 27% Lucas/Natural Bridge 15% North County 8% Oakville 29% Olivette 37% Overland 16% South County 22% West County 46%
<b>Barton</b> Lamar 37%	<b>Daviess</b> Gallatin 34%	<b>Laclede</b> Lebanon 32%	<b>Ozark</b> Gainesville 30%	<b>Ste. Genevieve</b> Ste. Genevieve 39%
<b>Bates</b> Butler 36%	<b>Dekalb</b> Maysville 40%	<b>Lafayette</b> Lexington 38%	<b>Pemiscot</b> Caruthersville 20%	<b>Stoddard</b> Dexter 25%
<b>Benton</b> Warsaw 38%	<b>Dent</b> Salem 27%	<b>Lawrence</b> Aurora 36% Mount Vernon 41%	<b>Perry</b> Perryville 32%	<b>Stone</b> Crane 34% Lakeview 35%
<b>Bollinger</b> Marble Hill 25%	<b>Douglas</b> Ava 22%	<b>Lewis</b> Monticello 46%	<b>Pettis</b> Sedalia 37%	<b>Sullivan</b> Milan 10%
<b>Boone</b> Columbia Branch 32%	<b>Dunklin</b> Kennett 28% Malden 17%	<b>Lincoln</b> Elsberry 37% Troy 42%	<b>Phelps</b> Rolla 42%	<b>Taney</b> Branson 48% Forsyth 33%
<b>Buchanan</b> Saint Joseph Branch 36%	<b>Franklin</b> Pacific 45% St. Clair 34% Sullivan 27% Union 43% Washington 47%	<b>Linn</b> Brookfield 39%	<b>Pike</b> Bowling Green 35% Louisiana 15%	<b>Texas</b> Cabool 37% Houston 25% Licking 13%
<b>Butler</b> Poplar Bluff 28%	<b>Gasconade</b> Hermann 39% Owensville 34%	<b>Livingston</b> Chillicothe 27%	<b>Platte</b> Parkville Fee Office 40% Platte City 45%	<b>Vernon</b> Nevada 36%
<b>Caldwell</b> Kingston 38%	<b>Gentry</b> Stanberry 24%	<b>Macon</b> Macon 31%	<b>Polk</b> Bolivar 37%	<b>Warren</b> Warrenton 40%
<b>Callaway</b> Fulton 36%	<b>Greene</b> Republic 41% Springfield Branch 40%	<b>Madison</b> Fredericktown 31%	<b>Pulaski</b> Waynesville 44%	<b>Washington</b> Potosi 31%
<b>Camden</b> Camdenton 29%	<b>Grundy</b> Trenton 31%	<b>Maries</b> Vienna 31%	<b>Putnam</b> Unionville 16%	<b>Wayne</b> Piedmont 32%
<b>Cape Girardeau</b> Cape Girardeau 26% Jackson 14%	<b>Harrison</b> Bethany 32%	<b>Marion</b> Hannibal 38% Palmyra 39%	<b>Ralls</b> New London 26%	<b>Webster</b> Marshfield 39%
<b>Carroll</b> Carrollton 6%	<b>Henry</b> Clinton 33%	<b>McDonald</b> Pineville 37%	<b>Randolph</b> Moberly 34%	<b>Worth</b> Grant City 30%
<b>Carter</b> Van Buren 36%	<b>Hickory</b> Hermitage 35%	<b>Mercer</b> Princeton 35%	<b>Ray</b> Richmond 33%	<b>Wright</b> Hartville 28% Mountain Grove 28%
<b>Cass</b> Belton 39% Harrisonville 37%	<b>Holt</b> Mound City 33%	<b>Miller</b> Eldon 35%	<b>Reynolds</b> Ellington 30%	
<b>Cedar</b> Stockton 32%	<b>Howard</b> Fayette 36%	<b>Mississippi</b> Charleston 32%	<b>Ripley</b> Doniphan 25%	
<b>Chariton</b> Keytesville 29%	<b>Howell</b> Mountain View 31% West Plains 34% Willow Springs 36%	<b>Moniteau</b> California 44%	<b>Saline</b> Marshall 38%	
<b>Christian</b> Nixa 39% Ozark 45%	<b>Iron</b> Ironton 23% Viburnum 31%	<b>Monroe</b> Monroe City 44% Paris 17%	<b>Schuyler</b> Lancaster 35%	
<b>Clark</b> Kahoka 37%	<b>Jackson</b> AAA Kansas City 55% Blue Springs 33% Grandview 30%	<b>Montgomery</b> Montgomery City 29%	<b>Scotland</b> Memphis 32%	
<b>Clay</b> Excelsior Springs 35% Gladstone 37% Liberty 50% North Kansas City 55%		<b>Morgan</b> Versailles 29%	<b>Scott</b> Chaffee 37% Sikeston 15%	
<b>Clinton</b> Cameron 21% Plattsburg 37%			<b>Shannon</b> Eminence 28%	
			<b>Shelby</b> Shelbina 34%	



## Percent of Adults Enrolled in the Missouri Organ Donor Registry by County

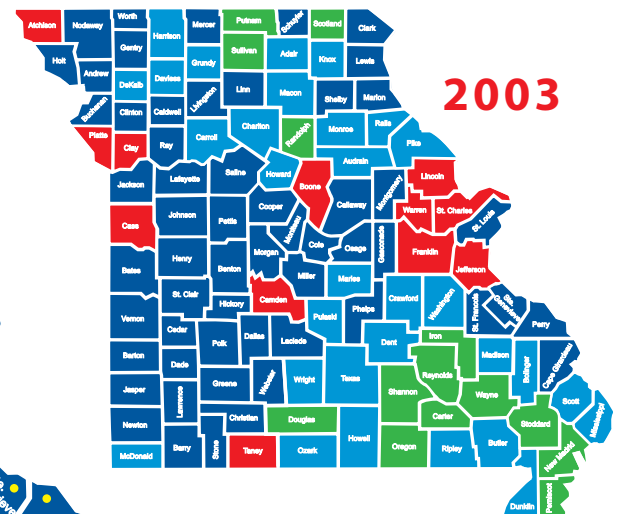
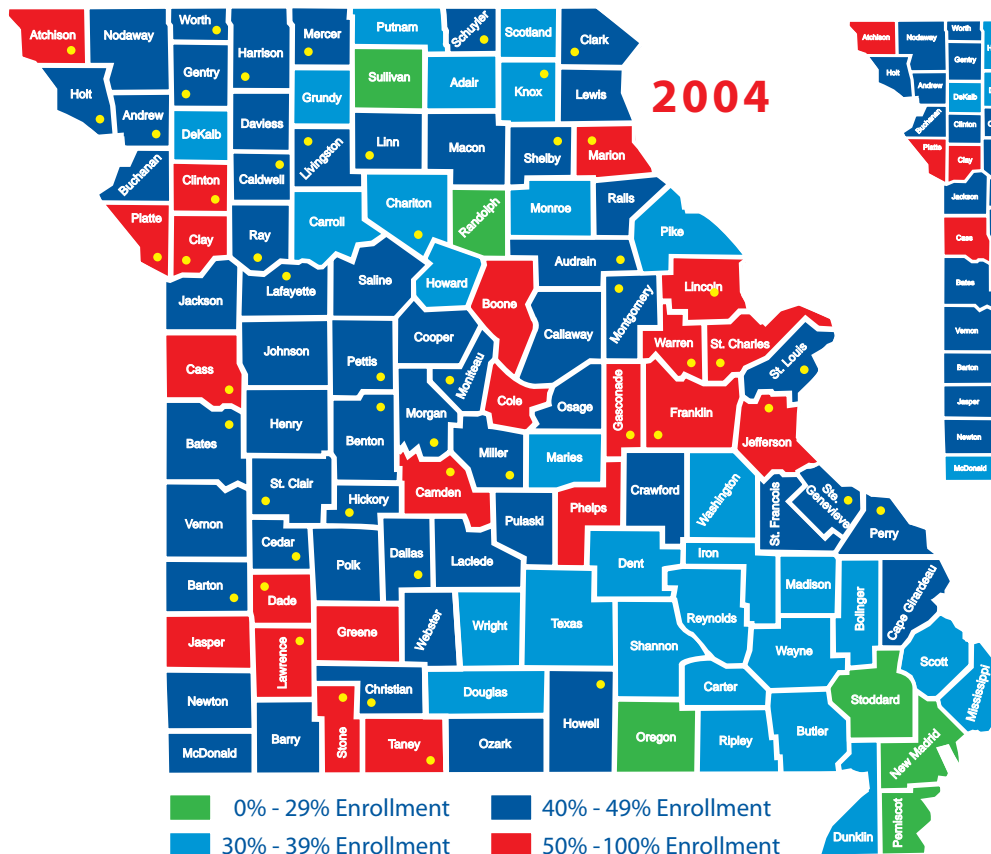
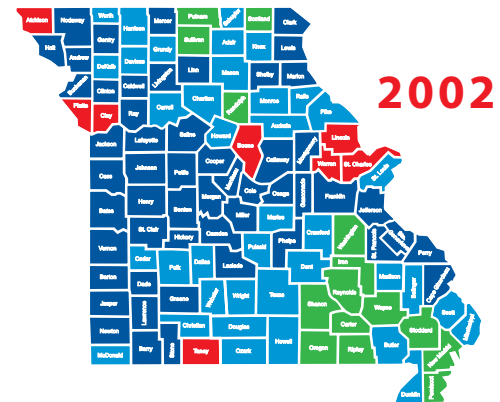
### Registry Growth Continues

The Missouri Organ Donor Program staff analyze registry participation information to help evaluate education and awareness activities. This information allows the staff to target specific areas and assist local partners with efforts to increase registry awareness. Using the 2000 Census data for Missouri, the maps below show the increase in average county enrollment from 2002 to 2004. An average of 49% of Missourians ages 18 to 64 years are enrolled statewide. For all age groups, an average of 34% of Missourians are enrolled. Average registry enrollment has gone up 3% statewide since last year.

The 18 to 64 age range is used as a primary indicator of registry demographics, since the majority of adults in this age range are licensed drivers and are given the opportunity to participate in the registry when obtaining a license or identification card. On average, 8,867 people enroll in the registry each week while visiting a license office.

The most dramatic increases in registry enrollment are seen within the 18 to 24 year-old group. In 2004, 51 of the 114 counties averaged 60% or higher participation with young adults (yellow dots on map below). This is up from 39 counties in 2003. The statewide average participation for 18 to 24 year-olds is 55%, an increase of 4% since last year.

In addition to registry enrollment at any license office in the state, an increasing number of people are enrolling through the Organ Donor Program directly. In 2004, 7,169 people submitted a registry enrollment form to the program and received a confirmation letter in return. Missourians can now enroll online and receive confirmation at [www.MissouriOrganDonor.com](http://www.MissouriOrganDonor.com). To learn more about the registry, please call us at (888) 497-4564 during normal business hours or visit online at [www.dhss.mo.gov/OrganDonor](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/OrganDonor).



● The counties in the map to the left that have a yellow dot within the county reflect their high registry participation within the 18-24 year old age group. In 2004, 51 of the 114 counties averaged 60% or higher participation with young adults. This is up from 39 counties in 2003. The statewide average participation for 18 to 24 year-olds is 55%, an increase of 4% since last year.

## Make Yours A License To Heal

The 2004 legislative session was successful in passing a bill that created a new specialty plate allowing Missourians to show their support for organ donation. Each plate requires a \$25 annual contribution to the Organ Donor Fund. The Organ Donor Program is exclusively supported by contributions to the Organ Donor Fund.

The idea to have a license plate in Missouri began several years ago. Three individuals worked with their legislators to get this passed. Janet Gans, from St. Louis (left in photo below); James "Doc" Daugherty, of Columbia (middle in photo below); and Diedra Thompson, of Columbia (right in photo below); all promoted this initiative. The three became acquainted through their efforts. Sadly, Doc died in February of 2004 and never knew the legislation passed. As a tribute to James "Doc" Daugherty and the others, a brief story about each person is provided below.

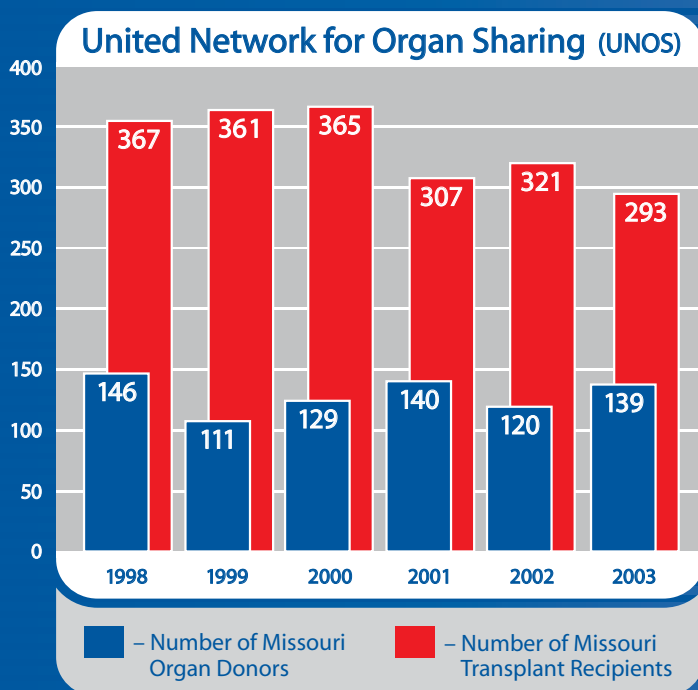
James "Doc" Daugherty – Doc was a career fire fighter until his heart failed in 1992. He received a transplant in 1995. Doc was extremely grateful for his second chance at life and was most appreciative of the time with his grandchildren. In the eight years following his transplant, he was a tireless advocate for organ donation and served as President of the local organ transplant support group. He was very active with the American Heart Association.



Janet Gans – At age 36, Janet was afflicted with a sudden liver failure. Her condition was so critical, that she was not expected to survive even a few days. The doctors decided to take the risk of giving her a liver of a different blood type. The transplant was a success and Janet knew she was destined to spread the word about donation. Janet explains "The kindness of strangers giving the gift of life back, when theirs has ended, touched me immensely." In the four years since her transplant, Janet has volunteered for Mid-America Transplant Services, the American Liver Foundation, the St. Louis Liver Center, and belongs to the St. Louis Transplant Olympic team.

Diedra Thompson – "My son Lee died at age 19 in a motorcycle accident. I am eternally grateful to the nurse who reminded me of the option of donation and helped me recall that Lee had expressed his choice to be a donor. I have great comfort in knowing that Lee helped fulfill the hopes and dreams of his recipients." In the nearly 20 years since her son's death, Diedra has worked to promote donation on a national, state, and local level.

## Organ Donation and Transplantation in Missouri



This graph shows the number of Missourians who donated organs after their death, and the number of Missourians who received an organ transplant from a deceased donor. Depending on the general health of the donor and the circumstances of their death, one organ donor can save the lives of up to seven organ recipients. Life-saving gifts through organ donation include the kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, and small intestines. Additionally, as many as 50 people can benefit from gifts of tissue transplants such as heart valves, blood vessels, skin, bones, connective tissue and eyes. Even people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, can provide life-saving gifts through organ and tissue transplantation.

Not reflected in this chart is the number of Missourians who receive a living donor transplant. On average, an additional 82 people per year in Missouri receive a transplant from a living donor. To learn more about donation and transplantation statistics, visit the United Network for Organ Sharing website at [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)

Figures are based on Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN) data as of January 21, 2005, and are subject to change based on future data submission or correction.